

HOUSE BILL 3644

By Camper

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 5;
Title 6; Title 7; Title 40 and Title 41, relative to
recidivism reduction pilot program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 40, Chapter 28, Part 2, is amended by adding the following language as a new appropriately designated part:

40-21-2__.

(a) The board of probation and parole shall establish a pilot program that applies in any county having a charter form of government and a population of over nine hundred thousand (900,000), according to the 2010 federal census or any subsequent federal census, to provide ex-offenders with medical and mental health screenings, educational opportunities, anger management counseling, housing and independent living support and family support and reunification.

(b) The pilot program shall require intensive discharge planning, which will include screening of inmates for program eligibility and admission one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the inmate's scheduled release. Upon release into the communities, offenders will be supervised by specially-assigned parole officers, who will monitor and measure different treatment efforts, social services needs, and vocational training participation throughout the offenders' time in the program.

(c) The pilot program shall be offered to offenders eighteen (18) years of age to thirty-five (35) years of age with no current or prior sexual offense convictions or infractions within twelve (12) months of their parole hearings.

(d) The board of probation and parole shall limit the capacity of the program to serve two hundred (200) offenders altogether, consisting of one hundred sixty (160) males and forty (40) females.

(e) The director of probation and parole shall report to the judiciary committees of the senate and the house of representatives no later than February 1, 2013, regarding the results of the pilot program and its impact on the recidivism rate in the state.

SECTION 2. The board of probation and parole is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.